IN THE CLAIMS:

The status of each claim that has been introduced in the above-referenced application is identified in the ensuing listing of the claims. This listing of the claims replaces all previously submitted claims listings.

1. (Currently amended) A dicing saw blade retention assembly, comprising:

a shaped flange including a substantially radially extending support member and a substantially axially exending spacer member for spacing an adjacent radially extending surface of the support member a fixed distance apart from an axially adjacent element, the support member and the spacer member comprising parts of a single structure;

a retention element positioned on the spacer member of the shaped flange;

a dicing saw blade positioned on the spacer member of the shaped flange, between the support member of the shaped flange and the retention element; and

at least one biasing element located adjacent the retention element, opposite the dicing saw blade to bias the retention element against the dicing saw blade.

2. (Previously Presented) The dicing saw blade retention assembly of claim 1, wherein the axially adjacent member comprises an axial spacer.

3. (Previously Presented) The dicing saw blade retention assembly of claim 2, further comprising:

at least one additional shaped flange positioned axially adjacent to the axial spacer, opposite the shaped flange;

at least one additional retention member positioned on a spacer member of the at least one additional shaped flange;

at least one additional saw blade positioned between the at least one additional retention member and a support member of the at least one additional shaped flange; and

at least another biasing element located adjacent the at least one additional retention element, opposite the at least one additional saw blade to bias the at least one additional retention member against the at least one additional saw blade.

4. (Previously Presented) The dicing saw blade retention assembly of claim 1, wherein the axially adjacent member comprises another shaped flange.

5. (Withdrawn) The dicing saw blade retention assembly of claim 4, wherein the shaped flange and the another shaped flange are oriented in opposite directions.

6. (Withdrawn) The dicing saw blade retention assembly of claim 4, further comprising:

another retention element positioned on a spacer member of the another shaped flange;

another dicing saw blade positioned between the another retention element and a support member of the another shaped flange, the at least one biasing element being positioned between the retention element and the another retention element to bias the retention element against the dicing saw blade and the another retention element against the another dicing saw blade.

7. (Previously Presented) The dicing saw blade retention assembly of claim 4, wherein the shaped flange and the another shaped flange are oriented in the same direction.

8. (Previously Presented) The dicing saw blade retention assembly of claim 7, wherein the at least one biasing element is positioned between a support member of the another shaped flange and the retention element.

9. (Previously Presented) The dicing saw blade retention assembly of claim 8, further comprising:

another axially adjacent member positioned adjacent to a spacer member of the another shaped flange;

another retention element positioned on the spacer member of the another shaped flange;

another dicing saw blade positioned between the another retention element and the support member of the another shaped flange; and

at least one other biasing element positioned between the another axially adjacent member and the another retention element, opposite the another dicing saw blade to bias the another retention element against the another dicing saw blade.

10. (Previously Presented) The dicing saw blade retention assembly of claim 1, wherein an aperture formed centrally through the retention element receives the spacer member of the shaped flange.

11. (Previously Presented) The dicing saw blade retention assembly of claim 1, wherein the at least one biasing element comprises a compressible, resilient structure.

12. (Previously Presented) The dicing saw blade retention assembly of claim 11, wherein the at least one biasing element comprises an o-ring.

13. (Withdrawn) The dicing saw blade retention assembly of claim 11, wherein the at least one biasing element comprises a spring.

14. (Withdrawn) The dicing saw blade retention assembly of claim 11, comprising a plurality of biasing elements arranged radially relative to the retention element.

15. (Previously Presented) The dicing saw blade retention assembly of claim 1, further comprising:

a retention feature on at least one of the retention element and a surface of the support member of the shaped flange located opposite the spacer member thereof.

16. (Previously Presented) The dicing saw blade retention assembly of claim 15, wherein the retention feature comprises at least one recess configured to receive at least a portion of the at least one biasing element and to facilitate compression thereof.

17. (Previously Presented) The dicing saw blade retention assembly of claim 16, wherein the at least one recess is configured to limit compression of the at least one biasing element.

18. (Currently amended) A ganged dicing saw, comprising:

at least two shaped flanges, each shaped flange comprising a single structure that includes~~including~~ a support member that extends substantially radially and a spacer member that extends substantially axially for at least partially spacing an adjacent radially extending surface of the support member of one of the at least two shaped flanges a fixed distance apart from a corresponding radially extending surface of the support member of another of the at least two shaped flanges;

at least two retention elements, each retention element positioned on the spacer member of a corresponding shaped flange of the at least two shaped flanges;

at least two dicing saw blades, each saw blade positioned on the spacer member of one of the at least two shaped flanges, between the support member and the retention element of the corresponding shaped flange; and

at least one biasing element located adjacent at least one retention element of the at least two retention elements, opposite one dicing saw blade of the at least two dicing saw blades to bias the at least one retention element against the one dicing saw blade.

19. (Withdrawn) The ganged dicing saw of claim 18, further comprising:

an axial spacer positioned axially between the at least two shaped flanges.

20. (Withdrawn) The ganged dicing saw of claim 18, wherein the at least two shaped flanges are oriented in opposite directions.

21. (Withdrawn) The ganged dicing saw of claim 20, wherein the spacer members of the at least two shaped flanges extend toward one another.

22. (Withdrawn) The ganged dicing saw of claim 21, wherein the at least one biasing element is positioned between adjacent ones of the at least two retention elements.

23. (Previously Presented) The ganged dicing saw of claim 18, wherein the at least two shaped flanges are oriented in the same direction.

24. (Previously Presented) The ganged dicing saw of claim 23, wherein the at least one biasing element is positioned between a support member of one of the at least two shaped flanges and a retention element that corresponds to another of the at least two shaped flanges.

25. (Previously Presented) The ganged dicing saw of claim 18, wherein an aperture formed centrally through each of the at least two retention elements receives the spacer members of the corresponding shaped flange.

26. (Previously Presented) The ganged dicing saw of claim 18, wherein the at least one biasing element comprises a compressible, resilient structure.

27. (Withdrawn) The ganged dicing saw of claim 26, wherein the at least one biasing element comprises an o-ring.

28. (Withdrawn) The ganged dicing saw of claim 26, wherein the at least one biasing element comprises a spring.

29. (Withdrawn) The ganged dicing saw of claim 26, comprising a plurality of biasing elements arranged radially relative to each of the at least two retention elements.

30. (Previously Presented) The ganged dicing saw of claim 18, further comprising retention features on at least one of the at least two retention elements and a surface of the support members of the at least two shaped flanges located opposite the spacer members thereof.

31. (Previously Presented) The ganged dicing saw of claim 30, wherein the retention features each comprise at least one recess configured to receive at least a portion of the at least one biasing element and to facilitate compression thereof.

32. (Previously Presented) The ganged dicing saw of claim 31, wherein the at least one recess is configured to limit compression of the at least one biasing element.

33. (Currently amended) A method for fixing distances between ganged saw blades, comprising:

assembling at least two shaped flanges onto a spindle of a ganged dicing saw, each shaped flange comprising a single structure including a spacer member that extends substantially axially relative to the spindle and a support member that extends substantially radially relative to the spindle;

placing a dicing saw blade onto the spacer member of each shaped flange;

placing a retaining element onto the spacer member of each shaped flange, the dicing saw blade being positioned between the retaining element and the spacer member;

positioning at least one biasing element adjacent at least one retaining element, opposite a corresponding dicing saw blade;

forcing the at least two shaped flanges axially toward one another along the spindle, a distance between support members of the at least two shaped flanges being at least partially defined by the at least two shaped flanges, the forcing at least partially compressing the at least one biasing element to bias the at least one retaining element against the

corresponding dicing saw blade and securing the corresponding dicing saw blade between the at least one retaining element and the corresponding dicing saw blade; and

securing at least the at least two shaped flanges into position along the spindle.

34. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33, wherein assembling comprises assembling the at least two shaped flanges in opposite orientations.

35. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 34, wherein assembling comprises assembling the at least two shaped flanges in opposite orientations with the spacer members facing one another.

36. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35, wherein positioning comprises positioning the at least one biasing element between retaining elements on spacer members of the at least two shaped flanges.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein assembling comprises assembling the at least two shaped flanges in the same orientation.